## RESOLUTION No. 16-434

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that Dr. Ernest Eugene Rogers will reach a milestone 100<sup>th</sup> year of life on June 17, 2016, with a celebration to be held June 25, 2016, at the Oakwood Adventist Academy Multi-Education Center; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Ernest Eugene Rogers was born on June 17, 1916, in Memphis, Tennessee to the late Louise Boyd Rogers & John Edward Rogers. He was the third of seven children; all six siblings are deceased. He attended Booker T. Washington High School in Memphis, but went on to graduate from Oakwood Academy; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Rogers studied Theology/Biblical Languages at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree. He also studied Theology/Biblical Languages at SDA Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., where he received his Master of Arts Degree. Dr. Rogers later received a Ph.D. in Communications from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, he is known as a scholar and one who gives wise counsel, a man of integrity who will stand for the right even if it means he must stand alone. He is loved for his humble spirit, gratitude, genuine joy, and peace that is contagious and reflects a selfless service orientation that has been his life. He lives a life of gratitude to God that is manifested in his love for Him and others. His joy is in service and mentoring others to excellence; and,

WHEREAS, his family knows him as a wonderful husband and father, one who loves his family and consistently demonstrates it in every venue (home and away from home), one who reflects God's image in giving, loving unconditionally, planning the best for family and others, acting on his promises and seeing the glass half-full and not half-empty as a way of life; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Rogers was married to the late Mildred Strachan Rogers for 63 years. She was a public school elementary teacher and reading specialist with a Masters in Elementary Education/ Reading. He is currently married to Annell Wright; their marriage at age 91 (A. Wright) and age 93 (E. E. Rogers), was noted in Huntsville Times, Southern Tidings, CNN, National and Alabama Public TV. They were featured in a documentary entitled "Over 90 & Loving It." They were given an expense paid trip to San Diego, California to participate on a panel related to this documentary that was shown featuring those enjoying life after 90. They are also featured in other venues and publications. E. E. Rogers has forgotten to grow old and lives a life of gratitude that reflects an active mind and selfless commitment to God's plan for his life; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Rogers has three children, Jeannette Rogers Dulan, Ph.D., Professor of Education and Department Chair, Washington Adventist University (retired), (husband-Dr. Garland Dulan, Director of Education,

SDA World Church, retired); Ernest Eugene Rogers, Jr., Owner/Operator or Transportation Plus; and William Sherman Rogers, JD., LLM., Attorney/ Law Professor at Howard University. He also has four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; and,

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2016, he will celebrate 100 years of life and a legacy of service. He joined the faculty at Oakwood in 1945 and retired in 1979 after 34 years of instructing many of the pastors, church leaders and evangelists in the Seventh-day Adventist church system and institutions. He also spent time with the Association of pastors of several churches representing various denominations in the Huntsville area. At their request he freely provided instruction in applying Biblical Languages for a deeper understanding of the Bible. He was a popular speaker in many of the Huntsville area Black churches for special spiritual emphasis weeks and general church services. His love for people and service took him to various venues across the nation and internationally; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. E. E. Rogers is the recipient of numerous awards, including Professor of the Year for several years at Oakwood College (currently Oakwood University), outstanding beloved teacher, humanitarian, preacher, and speaker. A favorite of students, he was a sponsor of the United Student Movement and many Oakwood College classes, including Oakwood Academy class of 1962. Furthermore, there is an SDA School that bears his name, E. E. Rogers Academy in Jackson, Mississippi; and,

WHEREAS, on the University campus, the esteem for E. E. (affectionately known) was reflected in honors as teacher and sponsor of many campus student groups and clubs as well as the historic traveling Oakwood Cathedral Quartet and the extended Oakwood constituency as President of the Oakwood Alumni Association. His full time service spanned more than 50 years as professor and pastor. The combined full and part-time service (continued after retirement) totals more than 68 years of active service.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge, congratulate, and extend best wishes to Dr. Ernest Eugene Rogers on the celebration of his  $100^{\rm th}$  Birthday. May you have continued success in all future endeavors.

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**ADOPTED** this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2016.

President of the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

 $\ensuremath{\mathbf{APPROVED}}$  this the 23rd day of June, 2016.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama